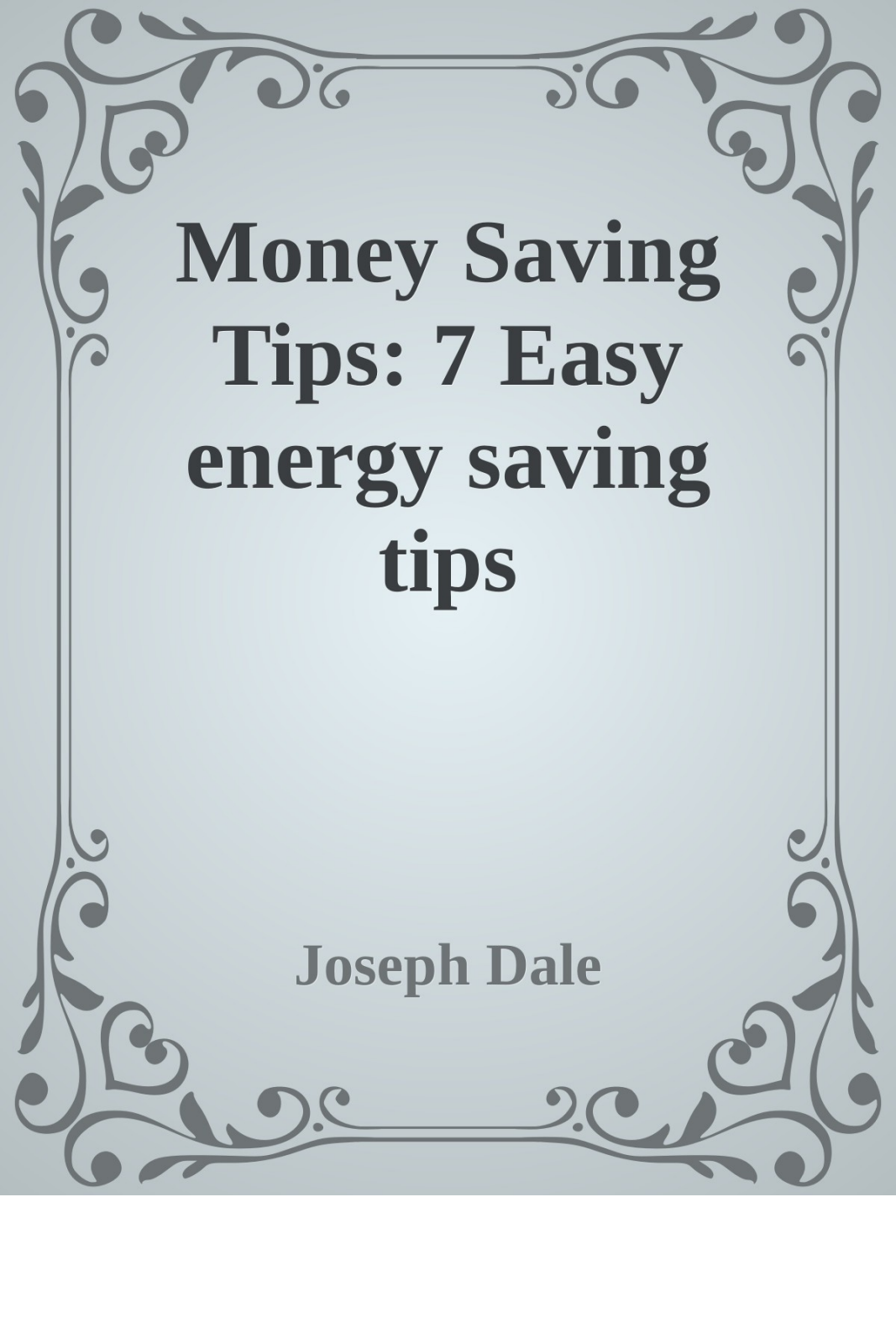


A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns, rendered in a light gray color, framing the central text.

Money Saving Tips: 7 Easy energy saving tips

Joseph Dale

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MONEY SAVING TIPS

7 Easy Energy Saving Tips



JOSEPH DALE

Money Saving Tips

7 Quick and easy steps for your Home

We all have good intentions when it comes to saving money, right? But in reality, you'll only start when you develop healthy habits and your future needs become more important than your current wants. A lot of times, our goal isn't a big enough priority to change our habits so we continue doing what we always do, unless we are pushed to make something happen quickly. I'm a believer in prevention or maintenance, after all you've taken the time to find a home for your family that will suit your needs. I'm sure you looked around and made some very important decisions before purchasing the home that you are currently living in. Maybe you're on your path to looking for a home right now or in the near future. I would like to help you along in your journey. My book "Money Saving Tip", can help you with a few basic tips for saving energy costs and give you some comfort while living in your home.

Thank you for purchasing my book. My goal is to suggest how you can save money today by implementing some quick and easy ideas to give you comfort in your home and save you money on your electric bill.

Please leave a review of my book and recommend it to all your friends and family.

The information contained within these pages is from my own personal knowledge and experience. I have written this book to be reliable information regarding the subject matter at hand.

However, it is sold with the understanding that the author is not engaged in rendering legal advice.

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Introduction

I've been in the construction industry for over 20 years. I can tell you from experience what works and does not work. I've replaced my fair share of windows, and doors; insulated homes; replaced trim in various interior and exterior areas full bathroom and kitchen remodels; window and door replacements; tile, sheetrock, painting, flooring, electrical, plumbing, roofing, framing, house flips, etc.

Just when I thought I came across everything under the sun, something else will undoubtedly come across my path and add another notch to the learning belt. There is always room for learning more information, and I continue to do so.

In these pages to follow, I've included simple solutions you can do to help save you money on your utility bill and give you comfort in your home.

Now I am a do it yourself kinda guy not to mention I am comfortable doing all these items I list here. If you don't mind getting a little dirty, everything I mention here should be relatively straight forward. If you don't feel comfortable or are unsure as how to do the items I list here, contact a local professional. I list the type of professional to contact, or ask your local hardware store for a recommendation.

Follow these quick and simple solutions, they will work and save you money and give you comfort.

Energy Saving Devices

Today's products use less electricity than a decade ago, however it's still important to pay attention to the items that use electricity.

- Look for the Energy Star on major appliances
- Use LED Bulbs instead of incandescent
- Turn lights off when not in use
- Use a power strip for multiple devices and turn off when not in use.
- Unplug your phone charger when not using. The plug adapter still uses energy when your phone or device is not plugged in

Windows and Doors

These are the most common areas where you will find the air leaks. Natural Ventilation works like this; Cold temperatures will always naturally flow to warmer temperatures. So, in the Summer time when you are cooling your home, if there is a way for the cooler air to find its way out to the warmer air, it will. Same goes for the winter time, that cold air will find its way into your home. Well if you ever felt a draft around your windows or doors, you can identify with what I'm talking about. Follow along and I will explain some quick and easy steps to help you save some money on your electric bill and live more comfortably.

Windows

On the exterior of the window you can apply a thin bead of clear silicone around the window frame. Silicone is flexible and will do well in the changing seasons. If you have wood trim around your windows and the trim is weather rotted. Replace the rotted wood, caulk it, and paint. This will help seal any gaps.



On the interior of the window, do the same as the exterior, apply a thin bead of paintable caulking around the window frame where the frame meets the edges of the wall.

Note: Most silicones will not be paintable. Most caulking is paintable, read the label or ask the person in charge of the paint department at your local hardware store if you are unsure.

Here are a few ideas you can add around your windows to help with a thermal barrier:

Solar Film

You can apply a solar film on the inside of the window to help reflect the sun's heat. If you don't feel comfortable doing this yourself, contact a glass or window company.

Applying the film is relatively easy.

- Things you will need
 - a spray bottle filled with water
 - Credit card, squeegee, or similar
 - exacto knife, utility knife or razor blade.
 - Solar film fit to size.

Begin by measuring the window and cut the length of film you will need. Next, spray the window with the water evenly. The film may have a cover film to protect the film from dust collecting. You will need to remove the cover film before applying the film on the window; using the credit card or squeegee, press firmly starting from the center and work your way up and down, then left and right or whatever preference you desire. The goal is to press the solar film evenly all the way around, covering the entire window, work the bubbles out. Next, using your sharp edge cutting tool, remove the excess film from the edges. Let dry, you're all done.





Thermal Curtains

Using thermal curtains around your windows will help reduce the amount of heat in the summer and help keep the warm inside and the cold out in the winter.

Doors

Most exterior doors have weather stripping around the door, sometimes these get chewed up or flattened out over time. Make sure you have measured and purchased the amount of weather stripping you will require. Once you are ready to replace, it should take about 10-15 minutes tops to replace including cutting. The weather stripping is relatively easy to replace, just grab the flap from the weather stripping edge and gently tug until the strip starts to pull out, continue all the way until all of it is out. I like to start at the top and work my way down.



Make sure you remember the angle you are taking out because when you put the new one back in, it's possible for you to put it in backwards. I recommend doing one at a time, unless you're a pro like me and you can take all of them out at one time and replace. I recommend starting at the bottom and push the new ones in working your way to the top. Great you're all done.

Ok, let's say you've replaced the weather stripping and you are still getting a draft. Your local hardware store also has foam weather stripping for the side or top in addition to the weather stripping the door comes with. I only add this foam if the door has a good size gap. You can also get a door sweep for the bottom to help keep the draft out. There are several of these type to choose from

- Some attach to the door itself
- Some attach to the frame around the door
- Some go under the door, they almost look like a big sock. Let's look at some different weather stripping ideas:



Most of the time when the door has a gap too large it's because the door is out of square. You may have other issues going on:

- Not properly installed
- Screws from hinge side coming loose
- Weather rot.

If the top of the door is closer to the frame than the bottom when closed, (your door will look like it's leaning) chances are that the

screws in the top hinge need tightening. Longer screws may be needed to grab the door and pull the door back up.



Sometimes you can try everything and nothing will work. You may just need a new door. I recommend having the door professionally installed.

If you will be having your exterior door replaced:

- ensure the install team puts silicone under the base of the door to seal the door in, and keep critters out.
- Seal the sides and top using spray foam for windows and doors
- Replace the trim on the exterior and interior of the door jam
- Caulk around the trim on the exterior and interior
- Paint the trim

Insulation

As simple as it sounds, adding insulation to your home can save you comfort and money. The exterior walls of your home should have insulation in them. As per current building codes, all exterior walls are required to have insulation as well as your attic. What about the garage you ask. Most homebuilders only insulate around all living areas that make contact or are adjacent to the exterior of the home. So the garage is not considered a living area.

The most common types of insulation are:

- fiberglass
- cellulose
- spray foam

Also cost is a factor in determining which product to use. I recommend contacting your local insulating company to decide which choice is best for you.

If you will be doing the insulating yourself, a tip I would recommend while in the attic would be to use a can of spray foam around the top plate where the sheetrock meets the walls. If you clear the existing insulation to expose the framing, you will be able to see the area where the walls are framed out. This is the top plate, use the spray foam and fill in the gaps around all these areas.

You'd be surprised how much air you lose here. It's a good idea to use the spray foam to seal around all the areas where wires are going through, as well as pipes and A/C vents. Ceiling fans and ceiling lights are also a good area to seal up. For can lights I recommend a can light cover.





Insulating your electrical light switches and outlets

You may or may not be aware of how much your light switch and outlets leak air. They are very noticeable on a cold wintery day. Place your hand around the outlet or switch cover on most exterior walls. If they are not insulated properly around these boxes you will get leakage. Fortunately, there is a solution to help with that. Foam outlet covers, you can find them at your local hardware store, or online.





Another prevention is to install an outlet plug cover. Yes, the kind a parent would use to prevent their child from inserting something into the outlet from getting shocked. These little plastic devices help plug the holes from air leaking by.

Soffit Vents and Roof Ventilation

The soffit is the area that overhangs the outside of your home on the exterior. Your attic needs to breathe, if there is no airflow, especially in the summer, then your attic will become like an oven.

At the beginning of this book we discussed how cooler air flows to warmer air naturally. By having soffit vents and having an exit point for the warmer air, your attic will breathe and allow airflow. Your roof should have some type of vent system. Ridge Vents, wind turbine, static vent, attic cooling fan (electric or solar). Contact your local roofing company to ensure you have the proper amount of vents on the soffit as well as on the roof.





Hot Water Heater

Are you aware that this one appliance in your home accounts for approximately 30% of your electric bill. While gas heaters are more efficient and do not use electrical, there are a few steps you can do to help with your bill on both.

- Set your temperature to 125 degrees
- Ensure that your water heater has a thermal blanket around it.
- Try taking shorter showers



I recommend installing a whole house pre-filter system before the water heater to prevent hard water or sediment build-up in you hot water heater, not to mention all the other items that use water in your home. Sinks, tub/shower, dishwasher, clothes washer, refrigerator.

I live in Texas, we get lots of hard water build-up. The calcium and lime will clog your tank and eventually eat at the heating element on an electric hot water heater and slow the heating process.

By installing a whole house filter system like a water softener or various other whole house water filter system you will be saving money in the long run. All the areas of your home that use water will no longer have build up.



You can also have your hot water heater flushed out to remove sediment buildup. I recommend contacting your local plumber.

Climate Control

While it may seem obvious to change your air filter, most people completely forget about this. If your using your climate control you need to change the typical air filter at least once a month. Your air handler needs to be able to breathe and push the air throughout your home. It takes less than 2 minutes in most cases to replace. If you are unsure as to where your filter is located, contact a local air conditioning and heating company.



Another tip for using your climate control- try adjusting your temperature 1 deg warmer in the summer and 1 deg cooler in the winter than you normally would. You may be surprised how well you adapted to the temperature.

I recommend getting your condenser coils cleaned at least once a year, if needed. The condenser coils are how the heat is removed from your home. The condenser coils are what help to remove the warm air. If the fins that surround the coils are clogged with dirt and debris they will not be able to breathe properly. Your air conditioning condensing unit will have a harder time working to give you comfort. Not to mention working longer and racking up your electric bill.



A Few Final Thoughts

Thank you for purchasing this book. I hope I've given you some ideas that you have not thought of before or had no knowledge of and I hope I was able to convey this how-to information easily. If you have a subject matter that you would like more information on please leave me a comment. I will do my best to put that information together.

I ask you to please leave a comment in the review section and rate my book and recommend it to all your friends and family.